



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Aaron Dean, fine art consultant from Astor Galleries in Kingston, closely examined a basket before making an appraisal at St. Joseph's Church earlier this month.

Just how much is that worth?

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MILLBROOK — St. Joseph's Church hosted an Antiques Appraisal Day on Sunday, Oct. 1, and people came with items small and large: dolls, furniture and massive canvasses. There were guns, jewelry, lanterns and tools, too.

There was, according to the event co-chairs Irene Wing and Kathy Gallin, a steady stream of people and antiques coming through the doors from the time it opened.

This was the second time St. Joseph's has held the event. It did so for the first time two years ago, and people remember trudging through snow to get to the school building where it was held. This time the weather, although a little damp and dreary, proved much more accommodating.

Each person was issued a number, and once inside, they sat

and waited for their numbers to be called. Some brought one item, some brought several. The six appraisers were very thorough and careful, and gave individual attention to each item being appraised.

Refreshments were available for those who waited. They could go to the food bar, but there were also helpers, including several teens from the church, taking orders and circulating with trays of muffins, cookies and cakes. The whole process was orderly and professional. The food was handled by the Women's Guild, and a great many people volunteered in the effort, which raised money for St. Joseph's Church.

"We are so grateful to all of the volunteers, and especially Monsignor Gerardo Colacicco, who opened the school to us and was most gracious throughout the process," Gallin said,

By the end of the day, 182

people had brought in objects to be appraised, and 325 appraisals were done. The cost was \$10 per object, or three objects for \$25. Some people were pleased, getting appraisals for a higher amount than expected. Some, like Angela Siegel of Hyde Park, had at least one item appraised at a lower price than she thought. But she said she enjoyed the experience.

In year's past, others had been surprised by their appraisals, according to organizers. When the Astor Galleries was at St. Joseph's in December of 2014, a Chinese jade vase measuring only 4.5 inches tall was appraised. The gallery, even knowing it was quite valuable, was amazed when it later sold for \$91,000.

Astor Galleries is located in Kingston, and specializes in antiques of all kinds. They back up their work with written estimates.